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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 001141

SIPDIS

NEA/ARP, NEA/I

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/15/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MASS](#) [MARR](#) [KU](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: STRONG USG INTEREST IN SUPPORTING AMBASSADOR
AL-MOU'MIN TRAVEL TO IRAQ THROUGH DECEMBER

REF: A. A) KUWAIT 1113
[1](#)B. B) SAWYER - JONES E-MAIL DATED 11/15/2008

Classified By: Political Counselor Pete O'Donohue for reasons 1.4 b and
d

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action request. See para 4.

[1](#)2. (C) The GOK has expressed its deep appreciation for USG support in transporting Ambassador Ali Al-Mou'min, Kuwait's ambassador to Iraq, to Baghdad to facilitate his presentation of credentials on October 22 and for a November 10 meeting with Iraqi President Talabani. Discussions have been underway regarding possible support to facilitate a return trip to Baghdad by Ambassador Al-Mou'min and accompanying staff and security detail (total of 17 persons) on November 23 with a return to Kuwait on December 3. The GOK has understood and accepted that the support for each of these visits would be provided on a cost reimbursable basis, per Embassy Kuwait's earlier exchanges with the Department.

[1](#)3. (C) Embassy understands that the Department now has concerns about the modalities for accepting such payments and that this could impact further travel (Ref B).

[1](#)4. (C) Embassy strongly urges the Department/DOD urgently to conclude an arrangement permitting USG Milair support for Ambassador Al-Mou'min's travel through December on a non-reimbursable basis. Embassy proposes this approach because we believe that USG facilitation of Ambassador Al-Mou'min's efforts to establish the Kuwaiti Mission in Baghdad lends essential credibility to that Mission and demonstrates to the Government of Iraq that the USG strongly values the re-establishment of close diplomatic ties between Kuwait and Iraq. Beyond mere logistical facilitation, such USG support also provides an important psychological aegis to Kuwait's political leadership at a time when delicate issues regarding borders and debt remain to be discussed and resolved. Ambassador Al-Mou'min intends to use the November 23 - December 3 visit to fully establish his Mission in Baghdad and has indicated that he will not seek further USG logistical support after end-December. USG long-term interests in the region are well-served by the successful establishment of the Kuwaiti Mission in Baghdad; we cannot allow the relatively small costs associated with this support to detract from our ability to assist a long-term ally from accomplishing this essential task.

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